



USAID | INDONESIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PHOTO & CAPTION

Bringing Hope and Jobs



Photo: USAID/Debbie Tomasowa, Mercy Corps

Ainul Mardiah lost her home, two older sisters, a nephew and a niece to the earthquake and tsunami. "I really enjoy working here because I'm with friends," she says, "...instead of just thinking about the water on that day." Nearly 15,000 people are being employed through USAID cash-for-work program that will benefit approximately 75,000 people in Aceh.

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

The bright and colorful loosely fitting clothes on her body do not seem to restrict her from moving around scooping dirt and other trash off the ground. Ainul Mardiah is a 50 year-old single woman from the village of Miruk Lamreu-deup in the Darusalam district in the Aceh Besar area who joined USAID/Mercy Corps Cash-for-Work program to clean up the village. Ainul joins approximately 200 men and women employed by the program, whom also lost everything they owned in the earthquake and tsunami that shattered Aceh on December 26, 2004.

"I lost my two elder sisters, one nephew and one niece....I lost everything in the earthquake as well, including my house in this area."

Today is Ainul's third day of work, cleaning the site of what used to be a part of the village of Miruk Lamreudup. Ainul says that she is happy to be able to work again despite feeling a little tired. Her joy and her enthusiasm in cleaning up the village are also fueled by the friends she gained when starting to work. Frequent chatter and laughter are commonly heard during a day's session at this site, nowadays. "I really enjoy working here because I'm here with friends," she says further cheered on by those around her. "It's refreshing! Instead of just thinking about the water on that day..."

Ainul says that she is excited to somehow earn a little to buy some food and some daily need. "What I earn here is not too much, but it's good enough for now," she further explains with a smile. She first heard about this program from some friends at the same camp where she currently stays. "

Nearly 15,000 people are being employed through USAID cash-for-work program that will benefit approximately 75,000 people in Aceh.